

# THE Anti-Slavery Reporter

PUBLISHED UNDER THE SANCTION OF THE  
BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

Series 4.  
Vol. XXI., No. 2.

MARCH-MAY, 1901.

Gratis to  
Subscribers.

## CONTENTS.

|  | PAGE |
|--|------|
| HIS MAJESTY THE KING: PATRONAGE OF THE SOCIETY ... ..          | 43   |
| ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY ... ..                           | 44   |
| THE NATIVE QUESTION IN SOUTH AFRICA... ..                      | 49   |
| LETTER TO MR. CHAMBERLAIN                                      | 52   |
| THE TROUBLES IN ASHANTI ... ..                                 | 52   |
| EGYPT AND THE SOUDAN—PARLIAMENTARY PAPER ... ..                | 56   |
| CAIRO HOME FOR FREED WOMEN—REPORT AND ACCOUNTS ... ..          | 61   |
| LORD CROMER IN THE SOUDAN ... ..                               | 62   |
| CONTRACT LABOUR IN ASSAM ... ..                                | 64   |
| FREED WOMEN SLAVES IN MOROCCO: PROPOSED HOME AT TANGIER ... .. | 66   |
| NUMBER OF SLAVES IN ZANZIBAR ... ..                            | 68   |
| THE UGANDA RAILWAY ... ..                                      | 69   |
| SLAVERY IN GERMAN COLONIES ... ..                              | 71   |
| THE POLYNESIAN LABOUR TRAFFIC ... ..                           | 72   |
| THE CORVÉE IN MADAGASCAR ... ..                                | 73   |
| REVIEW—MODERN ABYSSINIA ... ..                                 | 73   |
| SLAVERY IN WEST AFRICA ... ..                                  | 77   |
| SLAVE TRADING IN CENTRAL AFRICA... ..                          | 78   |
| NEW MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ... ..                                 | 80   |
| OBITUARY: REV. J. O. WHITEHOUSE ... ..                         | 80   |

PUBLISHED AT THE OFFICES OF THE SOCIETY,  
55, NEW BROAD STREET, LONDON, E.C.

WATERLOW AND SONS LIMITED, PRINTERS, LONDON WALL, LONDON.

# 1901. The British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society.

## PATRON: HIS MAJESTY THE KING.

### President:

1883 SIR THOMAS FOWELL BUXTON, Bart., G.C.M.G.

### Vice-President:

1886 ALFRED E. PEASE, Esq., M.P.

### Treasurer:

1879 JOSEPH ALLEN, Esq.

### Honorary Secretary:

1879 CHARLES H. ALLEN, F.R.G.S.

### Committee:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1898 W. A. ALBRIGHT, Esq.                       | 1882 CALEB R. KEMP, Esq.  |
| 1876 J. G. ALEXANDER, Esq., LL.B.               | 1895 CAPTAIN H. NEEDHAM KNOX, R.N.  |
| 1885 W. WILBERFORCE BAYNES, Esq.                | 1893 JOHN H. LLOYD, Esq.  |
| 1888 J. BEVAN BRAITHWAITE, Esq.                 | 1895 DONALD MACKENZIE, Esq.   |
| 1894 E. WRIGHT BROOKS, Esq.                     | 1894 W. CAREY MORGAN, Esq.  |
| 1893 CEPHAS BUTLER, Esq.                        | 1893 JOHN MORLAND, Esq.   |
| 1880 SYDNEY C. BUXTON, Esq., M.P.               | 1893 JOSEPH A. PEASE, Esq.  |
| 1893 JOEL CADBURY, Esq.                         | 1882 ARNOLD PYE-SMITH, Esq.   |
| 1893 FREDERICK G. CASH, Esq.                    | 1885 FRANCIS RECKITT, Esq.  |
| 1876 JAMES CLARK, Esq.                          | 1898 SIR JOHN SCOTT, K.C.M.G.   |
| 1884 R. N. CUST, Esq., LL.D.                    | 1894 RICHARD N. SHORE, Esq.   |
| 1883 R. W. FELKIN, Esq., M.D.                   | 1901 H. W. W. WILBERFORCE, Esq.   |
| 1886 MAJOR-GENERAL SIR F. J. GOLDSMID, K.C.S.I. | 1885 W. H. WYLDE, Esq., C.M.G. (late of the Foreign Office <i>Slave-Trade Department</i> ). |
| 1886 HENRY GURNEY, Esq.                         | 1895 T. GRAHAM YOUNG, Esq.  |
| 1887 DANIEL HACK, Esq.                          |   |

### Corresponding Members:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| RIGHT REV. BISHOP TUCKER, Uganda.  | A. J. MORASSO, Esq., Tangier.  |
| G. T. ABRINES, Esq., Tangier, Morocco.   | G. MOYNIER, Esq., Geneva.  |
| FRANK ALLEN, Esq., Alexandria.   | SEÑOR JOAQUIM NABUCO, Brazil.  |
| B. R. BALFOUR, Esq., Drogheda.   | PROF. EDOUARD NAVILLE, Geneva.   |
| T. H. BARKER, Esq., Liverpool.   | REV. PÈRE OHRWALDER, Cairo.  |
| THEODORE BURTT, Esq., Pemba.   | M. JOH. PATER, Teheran.  |
| HON. AND REV. H. CLARK, Jamaica.   | DR. PRUEN, Cheltenham.   |
| PROFESSOR E. DESCAMPS, Louvain.  | COMTE DE ST. GEORGE, Geneva.   |
| WILLIAM HARVEY, Esq., Leeds.   | COLONEL SCHAEFER BEY, late Director of Egyptian Slavery Department.        |
| CAPTAIN E. C. HORE, South Seas.  | DR. G. SCHWEINFURTH, Cairo.  |
| REV. W. G. HOWE, Ribé, East Africa.  | REV. W. G. SHELLABEAR, Singapore.  |
| G. P. HUNOT, Esq., British Vice-Consul, Saffee.                                | SLATIN PASHA, Cairo.   |
| SIR H. H. JOHNSTON, K.C.B.   | M. LE COMTE D'URSEL, Brussels.   |
| MONS. HIPPOLYTE LAROCHE, Paris, Ancien Résident Général de France, Madagascar. | M. COURTOIS DE VIÇOSE, Toulouse.   |
| M. LE PROFESSEUR G. BONET MAURY, Paris.  | COLONEL SIR F. R. WINGATE, K.C.M.G., C.B., Governor-General of the Soudan. |
| NOEL TEMPLE MOORE, Esq., C.M.G., late H.B.M. Consul-General, Tripoli.          | A. B. WYLDE, Esq.  |

### Secretary:

1898 TRAVERS BUXTON, M.A.

Bankers: Messrs. BARCLAY & Co., 54, Lombard Street.

# The Anti-Slavery Reporter.

MARCH—MAY, 1901.

[The Editor, whilst grateful to all correspondents who may be kind enough to furnish him with information, desires to state that he is not responsible for the views stated by them, nor for quotations which may be inserted from other journals. The object of the REPORTER is to spread information, and articles are necessarily quoted which may contain views or statements for which their authors can alone be held responsible.]

---

## His Majesty the King.

A LETTER has been received from the Home Office conveying His Majesty's thanks for the loyal address of the Committee of the ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY, expressing sympathy on the occasion of the death of Queen Victoria and congratulation to the King on ascending the throne.

We are also very glad to announce that the President has received the following letter from the Keeper of the Privy Purse, giving the King's consent in most gracious terms to the prayer that His Majesty would continue the patronage granted to the Society when Prince of Wales:—

PRIVY PURSE OFFICE,

BUCKINGHAM PALACE, S.W.

March 18th, 1901.

SIR,

I have submitted to the King your letter of the 16th instant, and I am now commanded by His Majesty to inform you that he is happy to comply with your request for a continuance of His Majesty's patronage to the BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) D. M. PROBYN, *General,*  
*Keeper of the Privy Purse.*

Sir THOMAS FOWELL BUXTON, Bart.

## Annual Meeting of the Society.

THE Annual General Meeting of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society was held at its Offices, 55, New Broad Street, on Friday afternoon, 29th March.

Sir T. Fowell Buxton, Bart., G.C.M.G. (President of the Society), occupied the Chair, supported by Sir W. Brampton Gurdon, M.P., Messrs. W. A. Albright, J. G. Alexander, E. W. Brooks, F. G. Cash, R. N. Cust, C. R. Kemp, J. H. Lloyd, A. Pye-Smith, R. N. Shore, C. H. Allen (Hon. Secretary), and others.

Letters expressing regret at their inability to attend the meeting were received from Mr. H. Pike Pease, M.P. (who had had to cancel his engagements owing to an accident), Sir Colin Scott Moncrieff, Sir Joseph Pease, Bart., M.P., Mr. John Morland, &c.

The CHAIRMAN first reminded the meeting of the great event which had struck them and all their fellow countrymen in the death of their late beloved Queen, and the succession of His Majesty King Edward VII. It would be within the recollection of all present that in the early days of the Anti-Slavery movement, their own Society, and that movement generally, had received considerable assistance from some of the Royal Family. Especially did they remember how Prince Albert, quite new to the country as the young husband of the Queen, took the chair in 1840 at a great meeting in Exeter Hall, in connection with the Niger Expedition, and how he had always shown his sympathy. Sir Fowell Buxton also recalled the fact that in 1884, when 50 years had passed since the law for the abolition of slavery in the British dominions, a large gathering was held in the Guildhall, the then Prince of Wales taking the chair. By his speech at that time, the present King had shown his real interest in the work of the Society, with which he expressed his sympathy not only by being present and presiding and making a speech, but also by becoming Patron of the Society. They did well that afternoon to cordially thank His Majesty for his patronage in the past. The Committee had ventured to send in an address, expressing sympathy with the Royal Family, and also thanking the King for his Patronage as Prince of Wales, adding a respectful request that the Patronage, felt to be so valuable in the past, might be continued by him as King. And he (Sir T. Fowell Buxton) was able to say, and they would all feel gratified to learn, that their request was most graciously granted, and that His Majesty would continue to hold, as King, the office which he had so well filled in the past as Prince of Wales.

As one of the events of the past year, the Chairman referred to the *Life and Letters of Zachary Macaulay*, by his grand-daughter, Lady Knutsford, a book which was of great interest, for it recalled to them the splendid zeal and devotion which was shown by the men of that earlier generation. He (the Chairman) was sure they did well to recollect how great that zeal and devotion was in those days, and he recommended to those of the present day the earnestness with which slavery was opposed some sixty years ago. Especially was there need for



such a reminder, as they had reason to-day to believe that a certain slackness had fallen upon their country in reference to this matter. It used to be not only a Christian but a democratic sentiment, that anything akin to slavery was abhorrent to the English nation. He would like to see that opinion maintained and proclaimed more decidedly than it was now, and as vehemently as it used to be in the days that were gone. Many and various social questions absorbed the public mind so that it was now less easy to get the interest of the young people of the present day enlisted in such objects as that for which their Society existed.

They would like to know that their Empire included no part where slavery was to be found ; but, at the same time, it was doubtless right for their country at times to step in and take the superintendence of other countries where certain evils existed, for the purpose of raising them and improving them. Referring to the British East Africa Company as one of the instruments for bringing about the present position of things in East Africa, Sir Fowell Buxton said that the one motive which had prevailed among the subscribers and directors of that Company was to benefit that part of East Africa, which had been revealed to them by the labours of Livingstone and Stanley and many other gallant men. The great majority of those who had taken part were men who had been connected with India, either in Government, trade, or shipping ; and they were honestly of the belief that the Government of India had done a great work to raise the condition of the people of that country. And when they came to know what they learned from Livingstone and others, as to the great injury done to the country by the Arab slave-traders, their ambition was to help matters by introducing some such system as that which they believed had done so much good in India. The British East Africa Company had not enjoyed a long life, but duly came to an end by the Government taking over their authority, with the perfect good-will of all connected with the Company.

But it was South Africa which just now, perhaps, most deserved their attention. They had had too much reason to believe that in the past a great deal of the labour of the country had been forcibly compelled, rather than attracted by wages. There were two ideas ; the one, of getting labourers anyhow for work ; the other, that labourers should have resources of their own by the cultivation of their own land. And they were obliged to recognize how satisfactory the condition of things had been in Basutoland, where the people were prosperous and happy in their homes, working for themselves on their own land. Whatever might be the authority and Government in South Africa, and wherever established, he hoped securities would be taken for guarding against anything like enforced recruiting of work, or compulsory labour after the natives had reached the mines. Although he did not believe thoroughly in compounds, yet he did not object to them as much as some of his friends ; he thought that sometimes a prison might become a fort, and protect the inmates from outside evils, such as the temptations of drink, diamond stealers, and so-forth, to be met with by those employed in the compounds at Kimberley. Doubtless much the same system prevailed at Johannesburg, with the difference that the

old Transvaal Government had derived a considerable revenue from the consumption of the worst forms of alcohol by the natives. He trusted attention would be given to this matter, and that those in authority would not be led aside by any theory that if they could not get labour in one way, they must get it in another. No: if they could not get labour in South Africa voluntarily and fairly, and without the use of force, the employers must do the best they could without it. They were no worse off than many English landlords in the Eastern counties, and they must not come whining to the Government and asking for compulsory labour.

Sir W. BRAMPTON GURDON, K.C.M.G., M.P., seconded the adoption of the Report, which had been moved by the Chairman in the following terms:—"That the Annual Report be adopted and circulated; and that the Committee, Treasurer and Secretary be re-elected for the ensuing year."

Sir W. Brampton Gurdon said he was very glad to be present that afternoon, not only because he had the utmost sympathy with the object of that Society, but because he was always glad to support their Chairman; and he thought that, when they considered the great services which he and his family had always rendered to the anti-slavery cause, they might almost recommend the case to students of social science who made a great point of heredity. He (the speaker) thought the Reports of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society were always interesting, and that they always contained some very good reading and some useful hints on this great subject. He urged that they must not in the least relax their efforts against domestic slavery, because they were all agreed on putting down the slave trade. And this was best to be done by stopping the demand. If they could stop the keeping of slaves, eunuchs, &c., they would be putting an end to the slave trade. And he believed they had already done a very great work in many countries. At the same time, they had not travelled as fast as they would have liked. But in Egypt, for instance, they had done much towards stopping slavery; and Sir Brampton Gurdon gave one or two interesting instances in proof of this fact. But they must, of course, remember that in these countries in which they were working, it was not quite sufficient to set people free; it was not enough, simply by a stroke of the pen to declare that all the slaves were free. On the contrary, they must look after the future status of these people, and take care that they had the means of earning a living, or otherwise they might fall into a worse condition than before. Sir W. B. Gurdon quite agreed with what the President had mentioned, as to the falling off in the feeling of this nation about the slave trade. There was not the same horror to-day that there used to be when he was a boy. The commercial instincts of those who went into distant countries to make money, had resulted in the idea that the black man *must* be made to work; and this forced labour system was nothing but slavery. Sir Brampton also alluded to the position of the Indian Natives in South Africa; many of the immigrant coolies did not return to India, but settled in Natal and elsewhere as market gardeners and small shop-keepers, forming a very useful sort of middle class population. But they had not been fairly treated with regard

to the franchise. The Indian who had his own house and land, etc., ought to receive the franchise, and he (the speaker) thought that all present would be on the side of the coloured man in advocating this matter. It was true that the black man should be encouraged to work as much as possible; but he should not be *made* to work, nor should a sort of forced labour be used, as was done in a great many of our possessions in this way—namely, by employing men who offered themselves in a so-called voluntary way, but who really came as presents from chiefs, and were thus compelled to the work that was given them. It is not voluntary labour; and when they go back to their own tribes, they have to pay a percentage of their earnings to their chiefs. This, surely, was most repellent to the English mind.

Sir Bampton Gurdon endorsed what had been said as to Basutoland. He thought these natives were perhaps more intelligent than any other tribe in South Africa; and one reason for this was found in the fact that they had a form of local self-government.

In concluding, the speaker hoped that the Aborigines Protection Society and the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society would always go hand-in-hand, and work together for the great cause they both had at heart.

The SECRETARY having submitted the names of the Committee and officers of the Society, which were as printed in the Annual Report for 1900, omitting the name of the Rev. J. O. Whitehouse, since deceased, and adding that of Mr. Herbert W. W. Wilberforce to the Committee, the resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. E. WRIGHT BROOKS moved the second resolution, as follows: "That this meeting hears with regret that the Official Reports from the East coast of Africa and the Red Sea last year showed a marked increase in the slave trade by sea, while the export of slaves from certain ports of Tripoli continues, in contravention of the Brussels Act. It also deeply regrets that in East Africa little advance has been made in dealing with the question of the legal status of slavery, and that His Majesty's Government now considers no further abolitionist measures necessary. The meeting renews its strenuous protest against the continuance of slavery under the British flag, especially in the British Protectorate of East Africa."

Mr. Brooks said this was a very comprehensive resolution, in which, it seemed to him, they must all agree. It was a matter of profound regret that at this period of their existence, and under the wide-spread and enormous influence of the British nation, they had to report that slavery did not appear to be on the down grade which they had fondly believed some years ago it was. To-day they found that, if it had not revived, they had obtained possession of territories in which slavery existed, and in which it appeared to be a matter of indifference to the Government of the day, and to many of its supporters, whether slavery should continue to exist in those countries or not.

Continuing, Mr. Brooks stated that he believed the key-stone of the whole question might be found in the conduct of the Government in 1897, when a

decree for the abolition of slavery was enforced upon the nominally independent Sultan of Zanzibar. They thought it would be immediately carried into effect, and they were told that the number of slaves there was something like 200,000. And yet to-day, some years after the decree first went forth, the number of slaves actually liberated was something like 7,000 or 8,000 only. The great majority of those slaves, unless some further steps were taken, would never live to see their freedom. Doubtless their condition had been ameliorated, and a system of payment of wages had sprung up. But it seemed to him that these facts were reasons the more why the last remnant of slavery in both Zanzibar and Pemba should be at once and immediately abolished.

Everything in connection with Africa was, Mr. Brooks said, swallowed up by the horror and enormous expense of the war now going on, so that it seemed likely that any voice which might issue from that meeting was like a voice crying in the wilderness, and would produce almost no effect upon the mind of the country. Let them hope and pray that the war might be speedily brought to an end! It did seem to him that the slavery question was not altogether dissociated with the continuance of that war. When those conditions lately published were laid before the generals fighting against us, there seemed to him no sufficient reason existed why that negotiation should not have proceeded further. He could not help thinking that behind the reasons more apparent why the negotiations were not continued further was one great reason that could not be mentioned in the face of the world, and that was the anticipation for which there was some ground in the terms that were offered, that the condition of the blacks in those former Republics would be an improved condition in the future from what it had been in the past. There was the more reason why they should urge that the whole question of the maintenance of slavery was abhorrent to the best nature of Englishmen; they were determined they would not allow the question to rest, but would again and again urge it upon the Government and the people of this country.

In concluding his remarks, Mr. Brooks read the advertisement from the *Natal Mercury* of 12th January last, for the purchase of labour for the Rand, which is referred to on another page.

Mr. J. G. ALEXANDER said he had great pleasure in seconding the resolution. It was twenty-five years since he had joined the Committee, of which at that time the Rev. J. O. Whitehouse, lately deceased, was the regular, though not the permanent, Chairman. Mr. Whitehouse was connected with the London Missionary Society, and a few years after that time, owing to some change in his duties, he was no longer able to attend the meetings of the Anti-Slavery Society; in the meantime they had also lost two of their Honorary Secretaries. Looking back over the twenty-five years, it had certainly been to him a great privilege to have been associated with this work. Especially did he recall Mr. Edmund Sturge, whose wise judgment made him a power everywhere. He had been welcome in the Foreign Office, and always worked heartily with the Under-Secretaries there, and had exercised a great influence in many ways. As



to the work that had been done during the twenty-five years, there was cause for much thankfulness. A quarter of a century ago there was still slavery in two Christian countries, in the great empire of Brazil and in the island of Cuba. But they had duly seen those last remnants of slavery in Christian lands put an end to. In 1878 he (the speaker) had been privileged to join Mr. Sturge and Mr. Long, as a deputation to the Berlin Congress from that Society. They brought before that Congress what had constantly been urged upon the Great Powers, the proposal for making the slave trade cease according to international law, and while they could not but feel at the time great disappointment at the small result of their mission, they were glad to-day to know that the proposal they then made had since been carried out. And so, in looking through the quarter of a century, he (Mr. Alexander) felt that their Society had not worked in vain. And even in Zanzibar and Pemba the conditions had greatly improved, though slavery itself still remained. They must go on working still, with the assurance that they were labouring in a cause that was a cause of right and truth, and also of God; and that they, and those who would follow them, would see the blessed and glorious results, and would see their own nation, as well as other parts of the world, delivered from the great curse of slavery and its attendant evils. The resolution was carried with unanimity.

Dr. R. N. CUST then proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman. They had that afternoon heard most interesting details of the work from the different speakers; but he (Dr. Cust) called special attention to a portrait of the late Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton on their walls, which had just been presented to the Committee by his grandson, their President. They ought certainly to feel deeply thankful for the heroes of the past century.

Mr. W. A. ALBRIGHT seconded the motion, and, as one of those who had been able to attend their Committee Meetings pretty regularly, testified to the constant attendance of their Chairman also at those Meetings.

Another gentleman supported the motion, which was unanimously adopted. The CHAIRMAN having briefly acknowledged the vote,

The meeting then concluded.

---

## The Native Question in South Africa.

### LETTER TO THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Certain questions have been asked in the House of Commons as to the importation of native labourers from North Africa for work in the Rhodesian mines to which we referred in our last issue. In reply to a question by Mr. Labouchere on March 14th as to the Beira incident,

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said—"The journey of the agents of the British South Africa Company to engage labourers in North-East Africa was under-



taken with the consent of his Majesty's Government. As to this particular case, we are informed that a number of natives belonging to Jibuti, in French territory, came overland to Zeyla, in British Somaliland, having been engaged as labourers for Rhodesia by one of these agents. Application was made by him to the Customs superintendent for permission to embark them, but this was only granted upon a promise by the agent that he would take them to Berbera, so that the Consul-General might be satisfied before sanctioning their embarkation. This, however, for some reason as yet unexplained, the agent failed to do. On reaching Beira they became alarmed, and refused to go any further, and a struggle took place, in which one native lost his life. The Portuguese authorities ordered an inquiry, the result of which we are awaiting, and a full explanation has been called for from the British South Africa Company. We have every reason to believe that the natives in their alarm were labouring under a misapprehension, but we are not aware of the terms of the contract, which presumably was made under French jurisdiction."

On the following day Mr. Thomas Bayley put a similar question, further asking the Colonial Secretary "whether he would inform the House as to any arrangements now in progress for obtaining native labour for Rhodesia from outside areas, which are within the knowledge of his Majesty's Government, and have received or may be awaiting its approval; and, whether any reports have been received by the High Commissioner for South Africa from the Resident Commissioner in Rhodesia as to the condition and treatment of natives in the British South Africa Company's territory; and, if so, whether they would be communicated to the House."

In reply, Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said—"I have seen an account of the collision at Salisbury on December 31st in the *Rhodesia Herald*, and I am expecting a report from Sir A. Milner. As to the disturbance at Beira, I would refer the hon. member to the answer I gave to Mr. Labouchere yesterday. The Administration of Southern Rhodesia have applied to his Majesty's Government to obtain a removal of the prohibition against native labour being introduced from Portuguese East Africa, and His Majesty's Government are in communication with the Portuguese Government on the subject. The question of obtaining labour from the Northern Transvaal, which is not possible for the moment in the disturbed state of the country, is under consideration. As to the third question, such a report has been just received by Sir Alfred Milner, who will no doubt send it on as soon as the pressure of work leaves him time to consider and comment upon it."

A few days earlier Sir Charles Dilke called the attention of the Colonial Secretary to the severity of the Transvaal Pass Laws by which lashes may be inflicted on coloured workmen for every second violation of the minute regulations, and the latest Gold Law, by which a flogging may be inflicted for negligence. These laws, although made for the benefit of the mine-owners, are said by Sir C.

Dilke to be less favourable to this class than the laws of Cape Colony, as the evidence given at the Industrial Commission of Inquiry held at Johannesburg before the war showed.

Mr. Chamberlain stated that Sir Alfred Milner is fully alive to the need for considering the revision of the laws in force in the Transvaal.

Sir C. Dilke, speaking at the annual meeting of the Aborigines Protection Society on March 20th, deplored the inertia and apathy of public sentiment on these questions, and declared that both in Parliament and in the country the national conscience greatly needed to be aroused.

Meanwhile the Rhodesian mine-owners are passing resolutions in favour of Asiatic labour for the mines, and urging permissive legislation to provide for the importation and control of such labour, with enactments dealing with the compulsory return to their country or the re-engagement of Asiatic labourers.

The Aborigines Protection Society, at the end of March, forwarded a long memorial to the Colonial Office on the Rhodesian native labour question, urging the unfairness of a tax instead of labour and "other coercive measures publicly recommended by representatives of the British South Africa Company," and earnestly urging that the Government should not give assistance to mine-owners in securing the supply of labour. It asks that "no imported labour should be sanctioned which is not subject to at least as stringent regulation and supervision as are prescribed and provided for by the Indian Government in the case of British Indian emigrants, with a view to ensuring for them freedom of contract at the time of indenture and proper treatment during their term of service."

A copy of the *Natal Mercury* of January 12th, 1901, was recently forwarded by a correspondent to the Secretary of the Anti-Slavery Society, containing the following strange advertisement :—

[COPY.]

#### TO LABOUR AGENTS.

The undersigned is open to purchase labour for the Rand in any quantity, delivered at any station in Natal or Cape Colony, directly natives are allowed to return. Highest premiums paid. Full particulars,

FRANK R. TEWSON,

Contractor for Native Labour to Imperial Forces,  
233, Church Street, Maritzburg.

Although its exact significance is somewhat obscure, our correspondent rightly describes this as "a most objectionable style of advertisement," and suggests that the question of native contracts needs inquiring into. He states that quite recently in Mombasa, East Africa, many natives were "pressed" into our Government service to carry the military equipment for the war (i.e. presumably the punitive expedition against the Ogas in the British East Africa Protectorate) up beyond Kismayu, and that the missionaries had to give their people "chits" to prevent their being requisitioned.

The Committee, having the advertisement before it, resolved to forward the original cutting, which is copied above, to the Colonial Office, with a request for inquiry to be made.

The following letter was accordingly addressed to Mr. Chamberlain :—

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN, M.P., &c., &c.,  
H.M. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

SIR,

I am directed by my Committee to call your attention to the enclosed cutting from the *Natal Mercury* of January 12th, 1901, which was recently forwarded to this office by a correspondent.

In the opinion of the Committee, the notice that a "Contractor for Native Labour to Imperial Forces" is "open to purchase labour for the Rand in any quantity" appears to point to a system of procuring forced labour in a manner so suggestive of the customs of slavery, that it was resolved at its last meeting to submit this very questionable notice to the Colonial Office, and to ask that enquiry may be made into the practices referred to. The matter was also brought before the Annual Meeting of this Society, held on the 29th ultimo.

In conformity with the resolution of the Committee, I have the honour to hand you the original advertisement, and to request that the Committee may be favoured with a copy of the regulations under which agents in Natal, or elsewhere, procure Native Labour for His Majesty's forces, or for the gold and diamond mines in South Africa.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

TRAVERS BUXTON,  
*Secretary.*

55, New Broad Street, London, E.C.  
13th April, 1901.

In reply to the above, an acknowledgment has been received from the Colonial Office, stating that "Mr. Chamberlain has no information regarding the advertisement," and that he is sending a copy of the Committee's letter to the High Commissioner for a report.

---

### The Troubles in Ashanti.

AMONG the causes of the trouble which led to the Ashanti War of last year, it may well be supposed that dislike of the interference of the British Government with the slave-holding and slave-trading customs of the natives was a factor. In the debate in the House of Commons on March 18th, Mr. Chamberlain said :—

"The Ashantis have been the predominant race in that part of Africa ; but what is the result of being the predominant race? They themselves will do no work

whatever. They insist upon having slaves, and are constantly attacking the tribes in their neighbourhood. There is no peace or security for life or property within reach of them, and trade was impossible throughout the territory. They maintain themselves by a tyranny which was natural to them as a great African tribe, but which we could not tolerate from the moment we had any responsibility. The hon. member would have been the first to criticise us if we had allowed it to continue. The Ashantis were a slave-raiding people. They were guilty of human sacrifices; they exercised a tyranny over the neighbouring tribes, and by their superior strength and power of fighting they kept this 'overlordship' of which the hon. member speaks."

In the final despatch included in the recent Blue Book (*Correspondence relating to the Ashanti War, 1900\**), in which Sir F. Hodgson, the late Governor of the Gold Coast, reviews the circumstances of the outbreak and endeavours to trace its origin, he states that the rebellion was quite unexpected, and that in March, 1900, no reports had been received from Kumassi of disaffection such as to render his carrying out his visit to the capital, which proved, in the event, so momentous, "either unsafe or inopportune." Yet a letter is published which shows that at this very time an Englishman, travelling on business, found the country and people in a dangerously unsettled state, and Sir F. Hodgson, writing a little later to Mr. Chamberlain from Kumassi, stated his conviction that the rising had been "a settled matter for some time, to be undertaken at the first favourable opportunity, an opportunity which my arrival here and the announcements I made when I addressed the Ashanti Kings on the 28th March, unfortunately afforded them."

It is not contended that the causes of the rising were not complex. The suppression by the Government of slaving and other inhuman practices was but one among many causes, several others being mentioned in the despatches, such as the resentment felt by the warlike Ashantis at the deportation of their King, Prempeh, the demand for labourers and porters for Government purposes, the imposition of fines, the dislike of the interference of "strangers and huxters," and the determination of the Governor to obtain possession of the famous Golden Stool, the symbol of paramount power, a point to which Sir F. Hodgson attached great importance. The armed expedition sent in January in quest of this emblem is indeed admitted by the Governor to have been one of the immediate occasions of the conflict which had been long preparing. Some of these causes are mentioned in the following extract from Sir F. Hodgson's final despatch:—

"Again, the whole system of the country had been changed with the establishment of British rule within their midst. All their savage modes of Government had been abolished. They were unable to be the proprietors of slaves, they could no longer glory in human sacrifices; they had to provide labour for public works, and they found their country over-run without molestation by strangers engaged in trade and other peaceful occupations. Further, for disobedience they were fined by the Resident, and I learnt after my arrival in Ashanti that this was a cause of dissatisfaction.

"The abolition of slavery and human sacrifices was a matter of course upon the

---

\* Cd. 501.



occupation of Ashanti, but it was inevitable that there would be discontent in consequence. The West African native holds very tenaciously to ancient customs, and the inability of the Ashantis to obtain slaves seriously interfered with their means of livelihood. They found themselves unable to obtain a sufficient number of labourers to work in the native gold pits and to carry on their farming operations, and further they were, at the same time, called upon by their chiefs, under application from the British Resident, to supply labourers for public purposes, as for example the construction of roads, and the conveyance of Government stores.

"The imposition of fines is necessary in connection with the maintenance of authority, and I could not find that the exercise of this system had in any way been abused. . . . But for the sudden outbreak of the revolt it was a matter which I should have carefully looked into."

As regards compulsory labour it is to be noted that in the negotiations carried on with the rebel chiefs outside Kumassi in April, Sir F. Hodgson told them they would not be freed from the obligation of supplying carriers or finding labour and material for house building, but that in the matter of carriers, he had found since he had been in Kumassi that there was some hardship caused, and that he intended to find a remedy.

On reading the story as told in the Blue Book it is hard to avoid the conclusion that the sufferings of the Kumassi garrison and the necessity for the despatch of the troops under Sir James Willcocks, who, white and black alike, fought so bravely, and bore so heroically the terrible hardships of the campaign, were in part, at least, due to unfortunate mistakes in judgment, and grave neglect of the conditions of feeling and the general unrest among the native tribes.

We are glad to note the declaration of the Colonial Secretary in the speech which has been already quoted, that the policy of the Government is one of unflinching opposition to slave raiding and slavery in the areas of country which are included in British protectorates or spheres of influence, although when Mr. Chamberlain stated that "in all these places we have declared that the legal status of slavery shall be abolished," he evidently forgot the mainland portion of the Zanzibar Sultanate.

It is much to be regretted that, in Mr. Chamberlain's opinion, this attitude is inconsistent with the exercise of discretion, tact and patience—qualities which he appears to condemn in this connection—and that the consequence of taking up this position must necessarily be war.

"When you say to these savage tribes, who for centuries have exercised these rights of slave-raiding, to whom it is necessary they should have slaves, in order to preserve their personal dignity, 'From this day, when the British flag and the British protectorate come, there is an absolute prohibition of slave-raiding,' then you have to fight for your principles."

This declaration is quite contrary to the principle to which the Anti-Slavery Society has always adhered, and which was thus stated by its founders in the constitution which they drew up:—

"That the extinction of slavery and the slave-trade will be attained most



effectually by the employment of those means which are of a *moral, religious, and pacific character*; and that no measures be resorted to by this Society, in the prosecution of these objects, but such as are in entire accordance with these principles."

A similar view to that of Mr. Chamberlain has been expressed in an even stronger form by Sir James Willcocks in an interview which has been reported in the newspapers on the subject of the recent fighting in Nigeria. His words are :—

"As a result of the defeat of these emirs a large tract of territory of many hundreds of square miles should now be freed from the cruel thralldom of incessant slave-raiding from bloodthirsty rulers, and critics at home who wonder why so much fighting is necessary must remember that it is one of our first duties to stop slave-raiding and similar barbarities, and *that this cannot be done without first putting the fear of God into the hearts of such men* as those who have just been subdued. Thousands of people have now been set at liberty, and will be free to pursue their peaceful avocations for the benefit of the country and the Empire at large. It is difficult for those who have not witnessed it to realize the terrible hardships entailed on the whole peaceful population by the autocratic and diabolical system followed by these emirs, and of the immense relief which Sir Frederick Lugard and Colonel Kemball have conferred upon the colony by overthrowing their rule." (The italics are our own.—ED. Reporter.)

With all deference to the speaker, we cannot but distrust these violent and forcible methods of introducing civilization, or, as Sir J. Willcocks quaintly phrases it, of putting the fear of God into the hearts of the unfortunate natives. We do not doubt that the rule of the slave-raiding emirs is rightly described as "autocratic and diabolical," but we greatly question the efficacy and permanency of any rule which is set up in its place if initiated in a spirit so high-handed and forceful as that which is here illustrated.

We may compare the language of Sir Godfrey Lagden, the late Resident Commissioner in Basutoland, in his interesting paper on that country and its people, recently read at the Royal Colonial Institute.

We might lay aside any hopeful ideas that untutored nations loved us in the ordinary sense. He could not cherish the belief that any natives liked to be forced to change their wild habits and customs, which were more attractive to them and offered lines of easier resistance. What they had to look for in them was respect—not the respect maintained by drumming and thrashing, but in a higher sense that which followed from fair and just treatment . . . . . Though the social condition of the Basutos, according to European ideas, left much to be desired, any attempt to introduce radical changes would probably defeat its object and be interpreted as a design to abolish their cherished customs and institutions, now more harmless than vicious. Lurking behind the veneer to which the wearing of smart clothes give an appearance of civilization, there was a lingering superstition that would take generations to eradicate. The people had in fifty years emerged from savagery, and were now on the threshold, not of civilization, but of enlightenment. There they had best dwell for a time.

This is a weighty testimony to the value of patient and generous methods of administration and of moral force, from an official who has governed a difficult country with honour and success.

#### FORCED LABOUR FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF WEST AFRICA.

Referring recently to the ingenuity displayed by the Ashantis in stockade-building, Sir James Willcocks made allusion to the question of labour in the Gold Coast, than which there is, in view of the development of the gold-mining industry, no more difficult administrative problem. If, said he, "the Ashantis could lavish such care and patience upon the building of stockades, they can also furnish the necessary supply of labour for the construction of roads and railways, which are so urgently needed." This sounds plausible enough, but no one who follows the trend of our West African policy can fail to see in it the first official suggestion of the *corvée*, not only in Ashanti, but perhaps also throughout the colony. The cry of forced labour and reduction of wages has already been raised by the "jungle" market, and there are no doubt many persons interested concerned in the development of the mining industry in the Gold Coast who wish to see it (or some system practically identical, but having perhaps a better sounding name) applied all over the Colony. Yet we feel confident that coercion to procure labour in West Africa would prove a disastrous policy, and give rise to fresh bloodshed and disturbance. One of the underlying causes of the recent rising was the pressure put upon native chiefs to procure the amount of labour required by the Government.—*The African Times*, March 8th.

### Egypt and the Soudan.

#### PARLIAMENTARY PAPER, "EGYPT No. 1 (1901)."

LORD CROMER's Reports are always very full of interest, and the volume before us, on the Finances, Administration and Condition of Egypt and the Soudan in 1900, which is stated by the writer on the first page to be of unusual length, is no less interesting than usual.

The reports deal with a variety of subjects connected with the material, social and moral welfare of the people of Egypt and the Soudan, and the tale which they tell of the Government honestly and earnestly seeking to understand the character and needs, and in every way to improve the condition of the governed, is a striking one. That the Administration endeavours to respect the feelings of the governed, and to carry the people themselves with it in its measures for their benefit, is shown by Lord Cromer's suggestive remark on the Estimates for 1901, that while in a country like Egypt the Government should keep somewhat in advance of public opinion, as otherwise but little progress could be made, yet it must not be so far in advance as to adopt measures with which the public generally are not likely to sympathise for some long time to come.

Among many topics of interest treated in the Report, besides that of slave-trading and slavery, with which the Anti-Slavery Society is more immediately concerned, we may note the highly satisfactory state of the Revenue;—the

account of the experiment which is being made, thus far with success, to lend money to the fellaheen on reasonable terms and so enable them to dispense with the services of the usurious money-lender;—Sir William Garstin's Report of the Nile Supply, and especially of the successful efforts made by Major Peake's party to cut and remove the obstruction caused by the *sudd* in the Upper Nile;—and the Reports relating to the Administration of Justice, Prison Reform and Education.

The following is the report on :—

#### SLAVERY.

"Captain McMurdo, who directs the Slavery Department, writes :—

"It can with good reason be stated that all trafficking in slaves has practically ceased. Since the Sharkieh case, which was tried in the Courts in Cairo in 1899, there has only been one other trial, namely, a kidnapping case which took place at Luxor. There is no doubt that the publicity given to the Sharkieh case has had a very considerable and desirable effect throughout Lower Egypt. It appears to be fully realised that the new Convention and laws cannot be disregarded with impunity."

"I am glad to be able to report that the Slavery Department have recently gained a noteworthy success at Suakin. The small Rashaida tribe, who live in the Suakin district, have for a long time past been well known as active slave-dealers. One of the principal Sheikhs, by name Marshoud, has now been convicted of buying and selling slaves, and has been sentenced to seven years' imprisonment. The result of this, and of some other convictions obtained by the Department, has been that the greater part of the Rashaidas, heretofore residing north of Suakin, have emigrated into Italian territory. I am informed that not more than forty Rashaidas remain within the Soudanese frontier.

"Arrangements have been made which will enable the slavery department to extend the sphere of its operations to the Soudan. An English inspector will be posted at Khartoum. The country between Berber and Kassala will be constantly patrolled by a portion of the camel corps, whilst another portion, whose head-quarters will be at Suakin, will deal with the country lying between that port and Kassala. In fact, as complete a cordon as possible will be established across the whole of the Eastern Soudan. I am in hopes that these measures will result in stifling all slave traffic in these regions.

"The number of slaves manumitted in Egypt proper during the past year was as follows :—

|                   | Male. | Female. | Total. |
|-------------------|-------|---------|--------|
| Soudanese ... ..  | 90    | 212     | 302    |
| Abyssinian ... .. | 2     | 17      | 19     |
| Circassian ... .. | —     | 9       | 9      |
| Total ... ..      | 92    | 238     | 330    |

"This is 66 less than 1899. It cannot be doubted that the number of slaves left in Egypt is small. I frequently hear complaints of the difficulty of finding domestic servants. It has occasionally been suggested that a school of domestic economy might usefully be established in Cairo. The idea seems well worthy of consideration, but I have not as yet studied it sufficiently to justify my offering any personal opinion as to its feasibility."

Lord Cromer devotes a paragraph to explaining the one purpose for which the *Corvée*—which he admits to be the last vestige of a bad system—is still called out for part of the year.

"THE CORVÉE.

"During the flood of 1900, 18,166 men were called out to guard the banks of the Nile during 100 days. This is 10,778 men in excess of the number employed in 1899. The flood of 1899 was, however, the lowest on record. In Lower Egypt, less than 1,000 men were employed on the banks in that year.

"The flood in 1900 promised at one time to be high. By the time it was known that the level attained would not be exceptional, the men had been called out and were upon the banks. The river rose very early and very rapidly. In August it seemed probable that the general rule would be followed, namely, that an abnormally low summer supply would be followed by an abnormally high flood. The men were, therefore, called out earlier than usual. Hence the high number. A similar mistake is not likely to occur again, as in future it will be possible to compare the Soudan gauges with those of 1900. Last year, any such comparison was impossible.

"I have on many former occasions explained that the *Corvée* now used for guarding the banks is in no way comparable to the system, which prevailed until a few years ago, of dredging the canals by forced labour. It cannot be said that the present system entails any very serious hardship on the population. At the same time, it is unquestionably true that the employment of forced labour for any purpose whatsoever is open to objection. Now that other more pressing matters have been disposed of, it is worthy of consideration whether the time has not come to abolish the last vestige of a bad system.

"The question presents considerable difficulties, both financial and administrative. It is now being carefully examined. I cannot as yet state, with any degree of confidence, whether a complete reform of the system will, or will not, be found possible. But I may mention that a solution may perhaps be found by posting gangs of workmen along the banks at specially selected spots, which could be connected by telephone. If this were done there would probably be a great economy of labour."

Lord Cromer concludes his report by expressing his hope and belief that recent events will strengthen the bonds of friendship and goodwill between Great Britain and Egypt, which are now perhaps closer than ever before. The British officials have gained a better knowledge of the customs and the needs of the Egyptians, while the latter appreciate more fully the disinterested motives of the English. British and Egyptian interests are not divergent.

"The British Government and the British nation are concerned in the special point, which is also of the deepest interest to the Egyptians themselves, namely the good government of Egypt and the prosperity of its inhabitants."



## THE SOUDAN.

With his report on Egypt Lord Cromer forwards to the Foreign Office an abridged form of Sir Reginald Wingate's report on the administration of the Soudan during 1900. Considerable progress has, says Lord Cromer, been made in the Soudan since the re-occupation of the country, but "a wide field for improvement exists in almost every direction." He specifies the two most pressing needs as being an increase in the number of British officials (which may, he thinks, be met without great difficulty) and the expenditure of capital on railways and irrigation.

The Sirdar sums up the general situation in the following remarks:—

"In reviewing the general situation, it only remains for me to add that, during the past year complete tranquillity has prevailed throughout all the districts administered by the Soudan Government. The rest, so much required by the people and the country, in order to enable them to recuperate after years of incessant disturbance and warfare, is already having the most beneficial results. A fairly good water supply and abundant rains have produced exceptional crops; the supply of grain is plentiful and the market prices lower than they have been for many years. These facts, added to a general feeling of security and immunity from interference, have gone far towards establishing a condition of apparent contentment and satisfaction. Under these more favourable circumstances the general progress of administration and reform, although not by any means rapid, has been less slow than was expected. The development, it is true, is still in its most elementary stage, but indications are not wanting that, under improved conditions, the country and the people will readily respond to the efforts that are being made to regenerate them, and to inculcate the simplest forms of a just and rational system of Government, which shall insure them against the venality and oppression of the past, and which opens out to them an era of comparative prosperity and tranquillity in the future."

The Report closes with an appreciative reference to the manner in which officers, non-commissioned officers, soldiers and officials—British, Egyptian and Soudanese,—and also many of the local Ulemas and Sheikhs, have worked at the task of regenerating the country.

There is a deficit on the accounts for the year of over £E 40,000, but the Sirdar gives various reasons for this high figure and states that the revenue has, on the whole, shown a steady tendency towards expansion and development. In order, however, to establish a thoroughly sound administrative system in the country more funds are urgently required. The charge on the Egyptian Treasury is a heavy one, and Lord Cromer observes that the most remarkable feature about the re-occupation of the Soudan is, in his opinion, the ease with which Egypt has borne this additional burden. There are real compensating advantages for the expenditure which is not at present likely to be sensibly diminished, such as the removal of the dread of Dervish invasion, and of interference with the water supply, as well as of the stigma that the great tract of country formerly under Egyptian rule had relapsed into barbarism.

There is an interesting note on education and the prospects of the Gordon



College in Khartoum (the building of which is now proceeding). The Sirdar emphasizes the need for skilled labour and for educated young Soudanese for the army and civil service.

#### SLAVERY AND THE SLAVE TRADE.

The Sirdar reports as follows :—

"In the Soudan, as in other African countries, the problem of slavery is by no means easy of solution.

"Vigorous efforts were made to suppress the Slave Trade prior to the Dervish revolt, and it was but natural that under the Khalifa's rule the institution should have reached a high degree of organization.

"By an equally natural process the anti-slavery operations were greatly facilitated by the reconquest of the Soudan, and the past year has shown marked progress in dealing with the suppression of the traffic. Cavalry, camel corps, and police patrols have been actively on the watch to check it. During the early part of the year, a good deal of kidnapping went on at Omdurman and Suakin, and some trade in slaves between Suakin, Omdurman, and other parts of the Soudan was known to be taking place.

"Many of the Arab tribes round Suakin, notably the Rashaida, are ready when an opportunity offers to smuggle slaves through to the coast and convey them across the Red Sea in their dhows. During the summer months a company of the Egyptian Slavery Department, latterly under an English Inspector, was stationed at Suakin and succeeded in bringing several individuals to justice, amongst them the Sheikh of the Rashaida Arabs, who was convicted of purchasing a slave and sentenced to seven years' imprisonment. In consequence of this, several members of the tribe have migrated into Italian territory, and I am in communication with his Excellency the Governor of Erythraea with a view to consorting measures to put a stop to this nefarious traffic.

"An interesting note on Slavery in this district has been furnished by Captain McMurdo, the Director of the Slave Trade Repression Department in Egypt, and I trust that before long arrangements may be made to establish a branch of this Department in Khartoum with a view to extending to various parts of the Soudan a system of patrols which, in conjunction with the camel corps of the Egyptian army, will carefully watch the various routes by which slave caravans are known to travel.

"For the last nine months, a company of the camel corps has been stationed at Adarama expressly with the object of patrolling along the Atbara and visiting the desert wells. This company will shortly be relieved by one of the Slavery Camel Companies, which will establish a patrol system in conjunction with an Arab Camel Company, which has just been raised at Kassala, and also with the Suakin Company. By this means, the tracks along the Atbara River and the road between Kassala and Suakin will be carefully watched.

"Colonel Collinson, the Governor of Kassala, reports that during the past year eleven persons have been convicted under the Penal Code and fifty-three

slaves have been released. The nomad Arabs, he states, are constantly buying and selling amongst themselves, but he hopes in time to be able to do much to suppress the traffic. All slaves released in the Kassala Province are registered and live amongst the other Soudanese.

"In the Suakin district thirteen convictions were secured, and Major Godden, the Administrator, issued sixty-six freedom tickets in addition to 129 issued by the Slavery Department at that station. He states that, in his opinion, no large parties of slaves are smuggled across from this district, that doubtless small numbers are taken, but that fewer have gone from Suakin in 1900 than in previous years.

"No doubt the fact is generally understood in the Soudan that slavery is abolished. It is also true that in the domestic sphere the status of slavery is not officially recognized; consequently, numbers of slaves or servants have left their masters and have found their way to the large towns, where they gain a precarious livelihood, and not a few have become accomplished thieves. This class, once they feel themselves free, do not readily take to work, although labour is much in demand. Nor is it in the interests of the general progress of the country that slaves should leave their masters, thus dislocating the labour, convulsing the domestic life of the country, and offering a premium on idleness. Speaking of slaves in this sense, I mean men or women who are unpaid working members of their masters' households and subject to their masters' control. But, in order that there may be as little interference as possible on the part of the Government with this long-established system of domestic despotism, it is an essential condition that such unpaid labour should receive the most fair and considerate treatment. Masters must learn to understand that their servants are not slaves in the sense that they are no longer legally their property, and that they have a claim against their masters for maintenance and fair treatment, which can be made good at law. On the other hand, there can be no doubt that many masters treat their domestic slaves with the greatest kindness and often go so far as to consider them almost members of the family."

## Cairo Home for Freed Women Slaves.

### REPORT AND ACCOUNTS.

CAIRO, 23rd March, 1901.

To the SECRETARY,

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY, LONDON.

DEAR SIR,

I am desired by Lord Cromer to send you a statement of the accounts of the Cairo Home for Freed Female Slaves for the past year.

During the year 1900 fifteen female slaves were inmates of the Home for varying periods. The numbers are not so large as formerly, and, as has been

remarked on a former occasion, these numbers must tend to diminish in the future; but the necessity for the maintenance of the Home exists as long as there are any women slaves forthcoming for whom it is necessary to provide shelter while arrangements are being made for their future.

Believe me to be, dear Sir, yours truly,

(Signed) D. P. CHAPMAN.

*Hon. Treasurer.*

#### ACCOUNTS OF CAIRO HOME FOR FREED FEMALE SLAVES, 1900

| <i>Receipts.</i>          |      |       | <i>Expenditure.</i>     |      |       |
|---------------------------|------|-------|-------------------------|------|-------|
|                           | £    | s. d. |                         | £    | s. d. |
| Balance in hand ...       | 297  | 10 3  | Matron's Salary ...     | 80   | 0 0   |
| Interest on Unified Bonds | 7    | 18 11 | House Rent ...          | 50   | 0 0   |
| Government Grant, 1900... | 307  | 13 10 | House Expenses ...      | 104  | 15 5  |
| Fees per Matron ...       | 0    | 5 1   | Repairs to House ...    | 17   | 10 0  |
| Donations ...             | 19   | 19 6  |                         |      |       |
| Due to Matron ...         | 14   | 2 6   |                         |      |       |
|                           |      |       | Total                   | £252 | 5 5   |
|                           |      |       | Balance at Bank Cr. ... | 395  | 4 8   |
| Total                     | £647 | 10 1  | Total                   | £647 | 10 1  |

In the amount £104 15s. 5d., charged for "House Expenses," is included a sum of £12 7s. 9d., on account of the maintenance of an old slave in the Hospital for the Insane.

(Signed) D. P. CHAPMAN,

*Hon. Treasurer.*

#### LORD CROMER IN THE SOUDAN.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

(By permission from THE TIMES, April 8th.)

No detailed account has hitherto appeared of Lord Cromer's visit to the Eastern Soudan at the close of last year or of the great durbar at Khartum, an event of sufficient importance in the history of the new Anglo-Egyptian territory to merit some account even at this date. The durbar, or reception, was opened by an address made to Lord Cromer as the representative of the Queen of Great Britain and Empress of India by the Sirdar and Governor-General, Sir Reginald Wingate, who, in the name of the British officers and "ulemas" (learned Mahomedans) and "omdehs" (local heads of districts) and sheikhs, welcomed his lordship to the Soudan. Lord Cromer, in reply, referred to his visit of two

years ago, when he told them that they would in future be governed by the Queen of England and by the Khedive of Egypt, and went on to say that he had been specially instructed by her august Majesty the Queen of England and Empress of India to express to them the great interest which her Majesty took in their well-being. He next made mention of the manner in which their religious freedom had been respected, of the courts of justice which had been established, of the reduction in taxation which had been effected, and of the abolition of the old, unjust, and iniquitous fiscal measures which were in vogue until the last two years. He referred to the railway which had been brought to the river bank opposite their city, and compared the power and justice of the English and Egyptian Governments by which they are now ruled with the tyranny and injustice of their former Dervish masters. . . .

A most interesting and important ceremony took place during Lord Cromer's stay in Khartum on the balcony of the Sirdar's palace, when a deputation of Dinka sheikhs came to present their homage to Lord Cromer. The Dinkas, together with the Shilluks and another tribe, live in the country about 600 miles to the south of Khartum, and their territory extends a very considerable distance further south. . . . After the fall of Mahdism the Dinka tribes decided to send a deputation of sheikhs to the chief representative of the English and Egyptian Governments, and asked permission from the Sirdar to do so. In due course seven or eight of their greatest sheikhs, and one woman of the highest rank in the Dinka world, set out for Khartum, and, after three months' march, they reached that city just before Lord Cromer's arrival. They were now taken to the palace and brought into his presence. In a brief speech his lordship assured them that slavery had been abolished, that they had no occasion to fear the appearance of the hateful slave-driver any more, and that the English and Egyptian Governments would do their utmost to promote their welfare. The Dinka sheikhs then sang a song in honour of the "great man," and when this was ended one of their number stepped forward, carrying in his hands the Dinka crown of honour, which he placed on Lord Cromer's head in token of his tendering the submission and loyalty of the tribes which he represented to her Majesty the Queen. The crown consisted of a black, high, conical-shaped, brimless hat, surmounted by plumes of black ostrich feathers, and the honour which the tribes intended to pay by placing the traditional tribal symbol of sovereignty and dominion upon the head of Her Majesty's representative was no small one. The ceremony proves that history repeats itself even in the Soudan, for the scenes on the temple of Amenophis III. (B.C. 1450) at Soleb, and on the temples of Rameses II. (B.C. 1330) in Nubia, and on the temples of later Egyptian Kings at Napata, prove that exactly the same kind of homage was tendered to the lords of Egypt after they had each in his turn crushed the "vile" Soudani tribes and "extended the frontiers of Egypt." When Lord Cromer had taken off the Dinka crown, he gave to the Dinka lady some looking-glasses, brightly coloured beads, a parasol, and some copper wire, with all of which gifts she was extremely



delighted, and he presented to each man a complete change of the brightest coloured raiment, which they promptly began to put on. The joy with which each Dinka dignitary received his gift was quite childish, and in the men who were rubbing and handling their new garments with cries of pleasure it was difficult to recognise the stately sheikhs of the early part of the ceremony.

Lord Cromer's inspection has been most beneficial in every way, and excellent results may with confidence be expected to accrue from it. The notables and sheikhs were not slow to perceive that the Sovereigns whom he represents are able to enforce their will in the Soudan, and the presence of battalions of armed men is doing a great deal to convince the disloyal and disaffected that opposition to, or resistance of, reforms will be treated as it deserves, and that swift punishment will follow. . . . . When they have thoroughly learned that lesson—and there is nothing so helpful to this end as inspections such as those of Lord Cromer, with their concomitant displays of military resources—trade will flourish, the slave-driver and dealer will cease from out of the land, and the Soudan Empire will gradually take no unimportant place among the kingdoms of Africa. An impartial consideration of the work which has been done and of that now in progress can hardly fail to convince the observer that the heroic Gordon did not die in vain, and that the government of the Soudan is in the right hands.

---

### Contract Labour in Assam.

A debate recently took place in the Viceroy of India's Council on the subject of the statutory rate of wages paid to the coolies employed in the tea gardens of Assam, and by the courtesy of the Editor of *Truth* we have been favoured with a full report of the speeches made by Mr. H. J. S. Cotton, C.S.I., Chief Commissioner of Assam, and the Viceroy, on that occasion. These speeches reveal a deplorable state of things prevailing among the coolies hired under penal labour contracts.

Attention was drawn to this subject in the *Anti-Slavery Reporter* at the end of 1893, when a member of the Committee of the Anti-Slavery Society then travelling in India sent home a document showing the heavy mortality among the tea-garden coolies, and the hardships suffered by them.

Mr. Cotton, who spoke in the debate at considerable length, pointed out that the coolie labourer in Assam

"is compelled to labour to the end of his contract as a man not free or his own master. He is bound down for a term of years not only by penalties under the law, but by physical subjection to his employer, who, on a labourer attempting to run away, is empowered to seize him and bring him back to work."

He emphasized the fact that the rate of wages fixed by the Act of 1865 purported to be a *minimum* rate, but it has come to be a *maximum* rate, earned only by those who work the full time every week-day in the month; and he



accordingly asserted that the raising of the Assam coolies' wage was now a necessity which they were bound to face.

Under the present system a labourer does not really know for what wages he is contracting, and "a tacit deception is practised when the terms of the contract are explained to an intending emigrant."

The remarks of Lord Curzon in his subsequent speech were to the same effect :—

"The least that the Government can demand is that the coolie, who is not a shrewd or independent personage, but is often an almost unknowing partner to the contract, should not suffer from his ignorance or his timidity, but should be accorded a protection corresponding to the stringency of the conditions by which he is bound. . . . . How much does the poor ignorant coolie really know of where he is going to? One recruiting agent comes along and tempts one man by glowing promises to go to Assam. Another agent appears and persuades another man by an equally glowing picture to go to the coal mines or the Duars. Not too much stress should, I think, be laid upon the volition of the coolie."

In consequence of the low rate of wages, Mr. Cotton stated that the coolies engaged are of a low class, and an objectionable system of middlemen is necessitated, which amounts to a regular business of "buying and selling labour." The cost of obtaining labour has more than doubled in the last 25 years.

"Coolies of good physique and constitution willing to emigrate to Assam under a penal contract, are not to be obtained in the labour market at the present rates, and to meet the demand contractors are compelled to search far and wide for people who are in such a state of destitution that they are prepared to emigrate on any terms as a last resource. Men and women who, owing to bad health or dissolute habits, have failed to make a living in their native districts, beggars collected in towns of Bihar and the Central and North-Western Provinces, are swept together and sent up to the tea gardens of Assam, where for a year or two at least, they will not do a full day's work, but will only be an expense and burthen to their employers, and swell the returns of sickness and mortality. The recruiter, or *arkati*, lies in wait for wives who have quarrelled with their husbands, young people who have left their homes in search of adventure, insolvent peasants escaping from their creditors. In carrying on his business he has to display considerable activity and resource; he has to incur unpopularity, and even physical danger; he must bribe chokidars, police underlings, and zamindary servants. Occasionally he brings himself within the meshes of the criminal law. . . . . It is not surprising that for such difficult and risky work the contractor demands a high rate of remuneration, which the keen demand for labour enables him to obtain.

" . . . . . In too many instances the subordinate recruiting agents resort to criminal means, inducing their victims by misrepresentation, or by threats, to accompany them to a contractor's dépôt or railway station, where they are spirited away before their absence has been noticed by their friends or relations. The records of the Criminal Courts teem with instances of fraud, abduction of married women and young persons, wrongful confinement, intimidation, and actual violence—in fact a tale of crime and outrage which would arouse a storm of public indignation in any civilised country. In India the facts are left to be recorded without notice by a few officials and missionaries."

The result of the system is seen in an appallingly high rate of mortality, which has averaged 53·2 per thousand among Act labourers—adults in the prime of life—during the last 13 years, and is quite double the rate of mortality among the general population.

Mr. Cotton gave a number of cases of ill-usage, of illegal deductions from wages, of heartless cruelty to sick (and therefore useless) coolies, and other abuses which prevail in some of the badly managed tea gardens, though he was careful to state that he believed they were exceptional cases. The proposal of the Chief Commissioner, who incurred great obloquy by taking up the cause of the coolies, was to raise the insufficient rate of wages, which under the existing conditions is given for a *maximum* of labour exacted “at the cost of untold misery, suffering and loss of life.”

The Viceroy admitted that the system of penal contracts was an arbitrary and abnormal system. Compared with free labourers or coolies in other places, the contract coolie in Assam had “relatively stood still,” and a wage which was considered a fair *minimum* wage 40 years ago could not be held to be a fair *maximum* wage now.

Mr. Cotton's evidence was, in the judgment of Lord Curzon, overwhelming, and His Excellency almost allowed that the proposals which he made on behalf of the Government of India were open to criticism as being too moderate.

The proposal was to raise the monthly rate of wages by one rupee both for men and women, but even this “very modest increase,” as Lord Curzon described it, is to be postponed for two years. Considering that the contract labourer is helpless and practically enslaved during his term, and that the system leads to gross abuses which the law cannot touch, and is admittedly indefensible, the reform seems meagre indeed.

The Viceroy felt a great responsibility in attempting to reconcile the interests of the planters with those of the labourers, and his assertion would appear to be fully justified, that the Government had diminished their proposals “to the *minimum* point compatible with fairness.”

---

## Freed Women Slaves in Morocco.

### PROPOSED HOME AT TANGIER.

[The following report of the scheme which was referred to in our issue for November–December, 1900, has been handed to us for publication by Mr. Henry Gurney, who has recently returned from a visit to Morocco, and is acting as Treasurer for the Home in England.]

*Patroness.*—LADY NICOLSON.

*Committee.*—SHERIFA OF WAZAN, Miss DRUMMOND HAY, Miss WINSLOW.

*Treasurer.*—MRS. BROOKS.

**OBJECTS.**—1st.—To relieve cases of distress amongst slaves who, having

acquired freedom, are in want through ill-health, age or any infirmity and who, being aliens, have no friends or relatives in the country to assist them.

2nd.—To provide shelter for such cases as are utterly destitute and incapable of earning a livelihood.

3rd.—To endeavour, eventually, to establish similar schemes in other parts of Morocco.

Broken down slaves are very frequently given their freedom by heirs who may inherit them from distant relatives and who do not care to be encumbered with the burden of supporting them; numbers of infirm old women who have been well cared for during the life of their original masters are thus thrown on charity when they most need help and care.

WORK DONE.—The scheme was inaugurated in April, 1900. Eleven old female freed slaves receive a quarter of a dollar a week, which sum, though not sufficient to maintain them, serves to relieve them from risk of starvation. In the course of the year other cases have been added, and one, who has been otherwise provided for, has been dismissed, the number at this date in receipt of relief being 16. With an increasing Fund it is hoped that the number of those relieved may be increased.

The two following cases show the condition and needs of those whom this charity seeks to assist.

"Dada Rabha.—Quite black, very old and blind, was freed as an old woman on the death of her master. Never was married. She had acted as nurse to all his children, but they are now scattered or dead, and she is alone and very poor.

"Fatima de Bujma.—Freed at the death of her mistress. Is old, quite alone, and in very bad health. She earns a little by helping to adorn brides of the poorer class for their weddings."

Some of the cases are introduced by the jailoress of the women's prison in Tangier. She is a negress and a kind-hearted creature, who is very thankful to find help available for those of her race who have been manumitted and have fallen into misery.

In the matter of providing shelter for the absolutely destitute and infirm cases great difficulty was experienced in finding any accommodation where they could be under one roof, and therefore under proper supervision. This difficulty has been partially overcome by Mr. Brooks kindly consenting to build on his land seven one-room cottages, which he will let to the Committee at a low rate, as required, for the occupation of ex-slaves. The total rents are not expected to exceed £12 a year.

The advantage of this shelter being on Mr. Brooks' property is that Mrs. Brooks will have the freed slaves under her personal supervision, thereby obviating the necessity of appointing a matron as originally proposed. In Mrs. Brooks' absence Miss Winslow kindly undertakes this duty. Of the 16 slaves who receive help in money, only five are at present without a roof, and will therefore be housed as soon as the building is finished. The others are provided for,

in some cases by charitable Moors, who give them a free corner to live in ; others are taken in by neighbours, generally freed slaves who are still able to work.

FUNDS.—Through the kindly assistance of friends connected with the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, this charity is mainly supported by contributions from England, owing to the fact of the British community at Tangier being small and—in great part—not in constant residence. Certain sums have, however, been subscribed in Tangier, and the children of some of the residents of various nationalities have interested themselves in the charity and have collected an appreciable sum towards it, as shown in the accounts.

CLOTHING.—This has been kindly supplied by Lady Nicolson out of her own "Clothing Fund," so no expenditure has been required on that score.

(Signed) LOUISA A. E. BROOKS.  
HENRY GURNEY.

TANGIER, *April 16th*, 1901.

The total receipts to date have been \$560, and the expenses \$190, leaving an available balance of \$370.

A list of subscriptions shall be forwarded to subscribers.

Further sums amounting to £18 have been received since my return to England, making roughly about £67 in all.

As stated in the paragraph in the *Reporter* for November-December, 1900, a Home to house about 25 women slaves would cost, say, £130 per annum, and we are still in hopes of securing a suitable house in addition to the huts referred to above. The money will accordingly be kept in the hands of the bankers at Tangier for the present. Since I left I learn from Mrs. Brooks that another slave has been put on the list for relief.

*May 7th*, 1901.

(Signed) HENRY GURNEY.

### Number of Slaves in Zanzibar.

Some astonishing statements on this subject have been made by the Government in reply to questions recently asked in the House of Commons. On the 18th of March, in answer to Mr. T. Bayley, Mr. Balfour said :—

"The numbers of slaves freed in Zanzibar and Pemba during the years 1898, 1899, and 1900 were respectively 2,735, 4,263, and 1,685. His Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Zanzibar estimates the present number of slaves in the two islands at approximately 50,000."

Now although the numbers of the slave population are, at best, conjectural, as nothing like a formal census has ever been taken, the diminution here stated is startling, for the official estimate for the two islands has hitherto been 140,000.



Mr. Donald Mackenzie, who visited the islands on behalf of the Anti-Slavery Society in 1895, adopted Sultan Burghash's figure of 266,000 as approximately correct, but 140,000 was the number officially given by Sir Arthur Hardinge on the estimate of Sir Lloyd Mathews in the same year, and this was adopted by the Government at the time of the Abolition Decree in 1897.

A few days later, replying to Mr. Herbert Lewis, who asked whether steps could be taken to expedite the emancipation of slaves in Zanzibar and Pemba, Lord Cranborne, the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, said :—

"As a result of various causes, including emancipation, it is estimated by the best authorities that there are in the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba only half as many slaves as were believed to exist in 1897. It is the opinion of those of our officials who are qualified to judge, and it is believed that the representatives of the missionary societies on the spot share the view, that further abolitionist measures would not be necessary. His Majesty's Government would be glad to consider any suggestions which may be made with a view of facilitating emancipation. I should add that a large proportion of the diminution is due to an epidemic of small pox. The present number of slaves on the islands is about 50,000."

It will be seen that the extraordinarily low number mentioned by the Under Secretary is a great deal less than half of that given in 1897. It is admitted that less than 9,000 slaves have received freedom papers since 1897, and it would need a very virulent and destructive epidemic of small pox to explain so marked a drop in the population.

We await with interest further explanations from the new Consul-General, and hope that the Government will before long issue another Blue Book which will give information on this matter, and include the reasons which have led His Majesty's officials to conclude that further abolitionist measures are not necessary.

As regards Lord Cranborne's belief that the representatives of the missionary societies on the spot share this view, our readers know well that the reverse is true in the case of the members of the Friends' Industrial Mission at Pemba. We have only to refer to the letter from Mr. Theodore Burt which was written to the Secretary of the Anti-Slavery Society at the end of last year, and published in our last issue, in which he said :—

"At the present time, even from the Arabs' point of view, I can see no reason for continuing the present system of gradual emancipation. It is quite time slavery was finally brought to an end. . . ."

---

### The Uganda Railway.

It is announced that the Uganda Railway has now reached mile 489, and that the permanent line is expected to be finished by June 1902.

Sundry strongly-worded statements and reports have lately appeared in the Press as to the mismanagement of the railway, which, it is said, has been only too evident throughout its construction. We have received some information from a recent traveller in East Africa which tends to confirm these reports of the confusion and lack of system which have prevailed. Owing to this bungling, certain parts of the line have had to be laid several times over, and large sums of money have been wasted.

The same neglect has, according to our informant, been evident in the treatment of the labourers hired in connection with the railway. A large number of porters hired to bring down loads from the interior have died owing to defective food arrangements—a wrong kind of food having been given them—while the Indian Coolie labourers are too often badly lodged, left to the extremities of climate, and insufficiently cared for generally. Our informant suggested that this might be one of the reasons for the great difficulty experienced in getting natives to work on the railway.

A recent article in the *Daily News* on Uganda and its Railway describes the administration as a costly and by no means successful experiment. The writer says that of the “five classes of negro inhabitants, all, excepting the Bantu-speaking group, may be considered as hopeless from the industrial, commercial, or even the missionary point of view,” but he continues—

“We have done a great deal for the good of these savages, for we have stopped the slave trade and what Sir Harry Johnston describes as ‘the blood-stained, harassed, barbarous days of Mtesa and his son Mwanga,’ and too much importance need not be attached to the Nandi rising, the trouble in Kavirondo, etc.”

The action of missionaries to these peoples has been entirely beneficent.

“Their work has been singularly successful; the co-operation of the different missions in the suppression of the slave trade and the prevention of the importation of arms, ammunition, and intoxicating liquors among the natives can always be counted on with certainty.”

The article refers to the interest of the taxpayer in the Uganda Railway, and to the difficulties of the survey and construction, which have been such that “perhaps the blunders and waste of money have been no more than we might have expected. One of the difficulties was the presence of lions, which caused considerable loss of life (at one station, Tsavo, alone, a place about 132 miles from the coast, twenty eight coolies were eaten by them) and frightened off the native labourers. Over 20,000 Indian coolies are now employed on the line.

“The slave trade in these parts has been entirely suppressed by our occupation, the railway cutting the slave routes in two and making the caravan slave trade impossible; and the sale of spirits and fire-arms to the natives is now almost unknown.”

“From all accounts the Uganda Railway would appear to be capable of improvement. What trade there is it taps, and the goods for German East Africa are landed at Mombasa and taken by the railway to Voi, from whence the caravans start for Kilima Njaro. The traffic management is, however, sadly defective; the

posts are very irregular, the mail sometimes taking three weeks to go from Mombasa to Naivasha, a distance of about 300 miles; it may then be imagined what the rate of the delivery of ordinary goods is. Wonderful as the Rope Incline at Kibuyu is, the wrong line is supposed to have been taken, and some say that it should never have been built at all. A permanent line could have been made in five months, while, owing to the delay of procuring special material from England, the Incline was eight months under construction; the management (?) of a strike in East Africa early in last year jeopardised the existence of the railway for a time; the track itself would not seem to have been made with due regard for tropical requirements, and in the rainy season large portions are washed away, while in the parts that are left engines have been seen to sink in the mire over the level of their footboards."

We hope that the result of the tour of inspection from which Sir Clement Hill has just returned will appear in recommendations which will lead to improvements in many of these important respects.

---

### Slavery in German Colonies.

*From the Berlin Correspondent of "THE TIMES," March 11th (by permission).*

THE Reichstag passed the second reading of the colonial estimates this afternoon. During the course of the debate Dr. Stübel, the Director of the Colonial Department of the Foreign Office, replied at some length to the attacks which were made by Herr Bebel upon the hut tax and denied that it was the cause of the recent revolts in the German colonies. Efforts were being made to put an end, so far as possible, to the abuses which accompanied domestic slavery, which was not recognized as a legal institution by the Government. Herr Bebel had asked whether it were true that a Captain Kanneberg in East Africa had shot a native woman and her child because he was disturbed by the child's crying at night. Dr. Stübel replied that Captain Kanneberg had been dismissed from the army and sentenced to three years' imprisonment for acts of violence resulting in death. The whole case was more or less inexplicable. Captain Kanneberg had thought himself justified in endeavouring to break down the resistance of some native chiefs by flogging them, and this had led to the acts of violence in question.

The Berlin correspondent of *The Times*, writing on March 20th, says:—"The subject of slavery in the German colonies came up for discussion yesterday, March 19th, during the debate in the Reichstag on the third reading of the estimates. Herr Bebel proposed a resolution requesting the Imperial Chancellor to bring in a Bill providing that children born in German territory of parents who were in the position of domestic slaves should be recognised as free. Herr Gröber, of the Centre, or Clerical party, opposed the motion of the Socialist leader. He pointed out that the slave trade had been abolished in German colonies since 1895, and contended that it was impossible to abolish by a stroke

of the pen such ancient institutions as polygamy and slavery originating in debt. The consequence of such a step would be to bring about an insurrection in which the slaves would not take the side of their liberators. No one in the Reichstag desired the maintenance of domestic slavery. The Clerical speaker brought in a resolution requesting the Imperial Chancellor to lay a Bill before the House placing various restrictions on the rights of slaveowners. National Liberal and Conservative speakers supported the Clerical proposal. Dr. Stübel, the Director of the Colonial Department of the Foreign Office, stated that in conformity with a resolution of the Reichstag passed in 1895 the Department had collected a great amount of information bearing on the question of slavery in the German colonies. This information would be laid before the Colonial Council at its next meeting. What steps the Government would take in the matter would depend upon the attitude of the Council. Dr. Stübel proceeded to point out that great differences existed among the German colonies in regard to slavery. In German South-West Africa, for example, the institution was unknown. Herr Bebel's resolution was finally rejected, while that of Herr Gröber, together with an amendment requesting the Chancellor to issue instructions in the sense of the resolution to the colonial governors, was carried by a large majority.

*The Correspondent of "THE STANDARD" writes:—*

"Ever since Germany began to acquire Colonies, the abolition of slavery has been proclaimed to be one of her most important missions. Nevertheless, this institution still holds its ground in nearly all her African Protectorates. Slave raiding and trading have ceased, but, according to the official reports, domestic slavery is still the custom, and is not only officially tolerated, but even defended. Herr Bebel recently proposed, in the Reichstag, that the children of domestic slaves should be declared free, but this proposal has been rejected by the House, probably out of consideration for Colonial interests. The Centre, which formerly made so much parade of its zeal against slavery, completely abandoned the cause. Hereditary slavery has thus been formally recognised both by the Reichstag and by the Head of the Colonial Department.

That the Centre succeeded in getting a motion passed which provides for the care of domestic slaves makes no difference to the facts. On the contrary, it gives the institution a much firmer footing, the position of slave owners being formally recognised by the imposition of definite duties."—*Standard*, March 23rd.

---

## THE POLYNESIAN LABOUR TRAFFIC.

We are glad to notice in a recent Reuter's telegram published in *The Times* that Mr. Barton the Federal Premier of Australia, speaking at a meeting at Toowoomba in Queensland at the end of February, said that he meant to abolish the Kanaka labour system gradually, though without unnecessary delay, the planters being given a few years to prepare for the change. Speaking at



Brisbane shortly afterwards, Mr. Barton appears to have so far modified this statement as to say that he was prepared to give a further limited term to Polynesian labour. The Anti-Slavery Society has always opposed the system of importing Kanaka labourers into Queensland, considering that, even when carried on with safeguard and checks, it gives openings for oppression and fraud and other evils akin to those of slavery; and it welcomes the prospect held out of the traffic being shortly brought to an end.

---

## THE CORVÉE IN MADAGASCAR.

We have previously referred to the promise of General Gallieni to abolish the system of forced labour in Madagascar at the end of last year. We now learn on the authority of the Paris correspondent of *The Times* that the *Temps* has printed an interesting telegram from Antananarivo explaining the devices of the Governor-General to attenuate the economic difficulties attendant upon the fulfilment of his promise to abolish *corvée* labour now that the Tamatave road has been completed. General Gallieni has increased the native poll tax, but has provided the Malagasy with a means of tempering this burden by accepting employment at a franc a day in Government workshops or private establishments. The abolition of the *corvée*, therefore, is not quite so complete as had been stated.

---

## Review.

### MODERN ABYSSINIA.

BY AUGUSTUS B. WYLDE.\*

THE author of this book is a corresponding member of the Anti-Slavery Society who has, in past years, supplied valuable information on the slave question in the Eastern Soudan and on the Red Sea littoral. Mr. Wylde was for many years resident at or near Suakin, and in 1887 he gave information to the authorities which led to the capture of 59 slaves off the coast by two of H.M.'s ships; he sent home an exciting account of the chase, in which he himself (at great personal risk) took part, and this was published in the *Anti-Slavery Reporter* for May-June, 1887.

Mr. Wylde has, as he tells us in his preface, "been more or less associated with the Soudan and Abyssinia" for a quarter of a century, and these countries exercise a very strong fascination over him. He therefore writes with great sympathy of the Abyssinians and their land, their social customs and religion, their politics, their past history, and the future prospects of the country, especially in relation to the policy of the three European Powers who are interested in this part of Africa—Great Britain, France, and Italy.

---

\* London: Methuen and Co.

Mr. Wylde devotes some interesting chapters to the disastrous Italian campaign of 1896, when he acted as correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*, and gives a detailed description of the Battle of Adowa which resulted in the defeat of the Italians and the accession to paramount power of King Menelek, since when the French have engaged in intrigues with him, and have attempted to create a French zone across Africa.

Of the Abyssinians generally, especially those of the peasant class, Mr. Wylde has a high opinion; and he is entitled to speak with authority, as he has so long an experience of travelling amongst them, and mixing with all classes. Like other natives, however, they must be treated, as Mr. Wylde more than once reminds us, in an honourable and gentlemanly manner, and neither bullied on the one hand, nor treated with too much familiarity on the other. On these principles Mr. Wylde has always managed to get on with natives in whatever country he has travelled.

"No man ought to pioneer unless he has a good temper, and unless he makes up his mind to treat the people he comes across in an honourable and straightforward manner. Without his doing the latter it is impossible for him to know the people of the country he passes through; and latterly I have read some accounts of travel that have been received by the public at home without one murmur of protest, and the travellers have been well received, whereas they ought to be exposed, and strict orders ought to be given by our home authorities that they should never again pass through territory under English influence."

Mr. Wylde has much to say about the recent political history of the Abyssinians, and their connection with Egypt and with Italy. Of the late King Johannes, who was killed in battle in 1889, he speaks very highly, and considers that he was exceedingly badly treated by our Government, which then missed a great opportunity. Of the present ruler, Menelek, who was formerly King of Shoa, and has never yet been actually crowned as "King of Kings" in the sacred city, Mr. Wylde does not think favourably, regarding him as an intriguer and dangerous, though he is capable, and may yet prove a benefactor to his country.

In 1879 the Anti-Slavery Society received a communication from Menelek, announcing that he had abolished the slave trade in his kingdom, in response to the appeal made to him some five years earlier, and asking the Society to urge the British Government to obtain from the Egyptian Government the removal of restrictions which prevented Southern Abyssinia from having any communication with the Red Sea coast, the ports being held by Egypt. The Committee had correspondence with the Foreign Office on the subject, and contemplated sending a present to Menelek in recognition of his anti-slavery efforts, in accordance with the advice of the German missionary through whom the King's letter was sent. A large state umbrella was actually made, but fortunately was never sent to Africa, in consequence of a warning from General Gordon that its presentation would probably cause serious trouble.

Mr. Wylde now states that the King's professions to the Society were not

sincere, and though he has forbidden the open passage of slave caravans through the country, his proclamation seems to have done little good, and Galla slaves in large numbers may still be purchased on the opposite Arabian Coast.

Mr. Wylde's book contains several interesting and important passages on the question of slavery and the slave-trade in Abyssinia. He confirms the information which the Society has published regarding the slave traffic in the Red Sea, and the unfortunate influence of France in this matter. This is a serious question for Great Britain in Somaliland and in the Soudan, and Mr. Wylde from his many years' personal experience repeats the truth which the opponents of slavery have so often urged, that the demand for slaves is the cause of the slave raiding which exists to supply that demand and this "will never cease until the Turkish official becomes honest"—an event which, the writer adds, "we can never hope for."

"There is no reason, however, why we should allow slavery to continue in our sphere of influence as we do at present; there need not be any Act of Abolition, and no compensation need be given, nor is any proclamation required; but the word slave is not to be recognised in any of our Courts of Law, and any one appearing at these Courts stands upon an equality. Slaves then have a civil right to claim for wages from their masters, and the case would be settled between man and man; the consequence would be that the master would pay his slave, if he was worth anything, a wage so as to keep him out of Court, otherwise he would let him go. Because a man has done a dishonest action by buying a fellow human being, he ought not to be compensated by any Government or any tax-payer because what he has bought turns out a bad bargain; and the man who buys a human being is equally as guilty as the man who supplies him with the article; every crime against humanity and every law that binds society together is perpetrated and broken in the slave trade; and as it is the wish of every honest person who studies the question that an end should once and for all be put to this horrible traffic, the permanent officials who can and will not put an end to it should be made to do their duty. . . . .

"At present in the south of Abyssinia a slave-owner can claim his slave, and the authorities return it to him; thereby setting an example to slave dealers that exists in no other parts of our protectorates, and proving to the Arab that we are not sincere and are not of the same way of thinking, and that they can get rid of their slaves legally in one part of our dominions and not in another. I mention this simply to show that it is impossible for us, if we are to be considered honest, to allow such an anomaly to continue; and what a hand it gives to the French at Djibuti to go on with the selling of arms to the slave dealers who are allowed to pass through French territory and take their slaves away to Arabia or elsewhere under the French flag. The slave dealers in the French dominions do supply arms to the slave raiders who supplied arms to the Khalifa and to other outlaws in the Soudan, and these men pass through Abyssinia. At present King Menelek does not put a stop to the trade, but only says it is not to go on—a very different thing."

Mr. Wylde goes on to say that if Menelek can be induced to put a stop to arms and slaves passing through his country, it will greatly strengthen the position of our authorities in the Equatorial provinces and the Southern Soudan, and facilitate the peaceful development of these countries. Slave raids are a

dead loss to the thinly populated country. There is a brisk slave trade between Famaka and Shoa, in southern Abyssinia, and Mr. Wylde has small belief in the anti-slavery professions of the native officials. As to the political future of this part of Africa Mr. Wylde has serious apprehensions, and he ventures to prophesy in a somewhat pessimistic strain. The frontiers of Abyssinia, except on the north, have not been defined, and dangerous questions may arise on the south and south-east; the French and Italian hinterlands are as yet unsettled. The recent British treaty with King Menelek fixed boundaries, which are not natural, but purely diplomatic lines.\*

The policy of Italy, since the defeat of their troops at the battle of Adowa, is based on conciliation and commerce, but Mr. Wylde utterly distrusts the intentions of France, and French influence is now paramount in Abyssinia; he refers to their prompt negotiations with Menelek after Adowa, the full results of which are not known, and the dubious purpose of the expedition of Prince Henry of Orleans in 1898. On the whole, Mr. Wylde considers that "the present position is fraught with danger and perhaps with many unseen possibilities of a disagreeable nature."

The traffic in firearms allowed by the French at Djibuti extends to the Arabian side of the Red Sea, and is calculated to have grave consequences. The trade is doubly bad, for the smugglers who carry it on, in boats flying the French flag, are nearly all dealers in slaves.

The slave dealers, even since the capture of Osman Digna, are, in Mr. Wylde's judgment, the most likely cause of future disturbances.

"The slave dealers can never be expected to raise such a formidable force as that of the Mahdi or the Khalifa, but still they will be able to keep part of the country in such a disturbed state that together with Abyssinia, should she prove hostile or unwilling to stop the road through her territory, it will be many years before they are finally put down. There are two big roads by which the Soudan can be reached and where the slave dealers can enjoy perfect immunity: one is *via* Tripoli through Turkish territory and where there is always a market for slaves, and where the dealers can always obtain supplies of arms and ammunition and keep Wadai and Darfur in a disturbed state; and the second is through the French sphere of influence near Djibuti, and then through Abyssinia to the western feeders of the Nile, the district that has always been, with the exception of the time when Lupton Bey was Governor, the chief seat of the slave trade in the Soudan. As long as there is a demand for slaves there will always be a supply, and through these roads the trade will be carried on without let or hindrance; and we cannot expect either Turkey or France to put a stop to it, as the Turkish subjects are the great purchasers that cause the demand, and the French will neither put it down themselves, as they cannot get labourers in their colonies; nor do they allow the right of search under their flag, which serves to cover the slaves in the middle passage."

---

\* In the most recent official report of the Soudan for 1900 the Sirdar states that preliminary surveys of the country on the western frontier of Abyssinia have been carried out, and it is hoped that "the very friendly relations existing between the British and Abyssinian Governments will contribute to an early and mutually satisfactory settlement of the frontier between the Soudan and Abyssinia." [Ed. Reporter.]



## Slavery in West Africa.

In the last quarterly record of the French Anti-Slavery Society is reported an address delivered at the Anti-Slavery Congress held last November in Vienna by a Roman Catholic missionary, Monseigneur Pellet, the Vicar-Apostolic of Benin. This address gives some valuable information regarding countries where slave-trading and slavery are nominally done away with, but where, as might be expected, even near the coast, its evils still linger on, and in the hinterland are still rampant.

Although the boundaries of the Vicariate-Apostolic of Benin, which is described as lying "in the centre of the Gulf of Guinea, on that coast which has deserved its name of the Slave-Coast," are not defined, and no one European power is named, a considerable part of the region must be under the British flag. Benin city is in northern Nigeria, which until last year was administered by the Royal Niger Company, which declared the legal status of slavery abolished in June 1897. The following are extracts from Monseigneur Pellet's address:—

"Regarded from the point of view of slavery, Benin may be divided into three zones:—

- (1.) The coast region, where European Governments are established.
- (2.) The middle zone, which includes countries placed under the protectorate or influence of an European nation.
- (3.) The interior zone, which includes tribes still independent.

In the first zone, slavery is prohibited by the laws, and the European Governments established there display vigilance in fighting against the scourge. All sale of slaves is severely punished. In truth, slavery has not entirely disappeared from this region; but, as the slave is in a position, whenever he likes, to leave his master and declare himself free, the master has every inducement to treat him well, and the lot of the slave is much lightened. It must be noted, however, that this only applies to slaves who can render services. As for the old people and the infirm from whom nothing more can be expected, they are usually driven out from the master's house and abandoned. . . . In the second zone are the countries which are under the protectorate of an European nation, and submit to its action and influence. If circumstances have not permitted the abolition of slavery in these regions, the slaves' lot is at any rate rendered less intolerable. The kidnapping of children and other captures of slaves are severely punished. The slave who is ill-treated can lodge a complaint against his master before the European residents or administrators established in the principal centres. It is customary to free the slave whose complaint appears to be justified. In these districts slave markets no longer exist. Trading in slaves is, however, not abolished, and slave-traders by profession are numerous.

"When I say that the slaves' lot is lightened, I do not mean that it is to be envied—far from it. All the slaves are not near an European administrator to whom they can carry their complaints. Besides, a slave suspected of wishing to make complaints, runs a heavy risk of being put in irons and kept there until his master is assured that he will no longer complain. On the other hand, the master can marry his slaves pretty much as he chooses, and without their consent. Further, he can sell them, and nothing compels him, in selling a slave family, to sell all the members to the same dealer. He may, as often happens, sell the father to one dealer, the mother to another, and the children again to others. The members of this family, transported far off into different countries, never see one another again."

To meet these evils, Monseigneur Pellet, while deprecating a general emancipation of the slaves *en masse*, proposes that the European Governments should pass measures to secure the enfranchisement of all children born after a certain date, and to prohibit all marriages of slaves of either sex against their will, and the separate sale of husbands and wives, and of children under 16 apart from their parents.

"In the third zone, slavery reigns in all its hideousness and cruelty. In most of the independent tribes no law protects the slave against the brutalities of his master, who is accountable to no one for the ill-treatment which he may inflict. The female slave, even when she is married to one of her slave companions, belongs in the first instance and always to her master who may make her the victim of his brutal passions at will. Resistance would only involve for the wretched woman the most cruel punishments. It is not rare to see slaves with iron fetters on their feet, and their feet covered with blood; bloody traces of the ill-treatment which they have undergone are often seen on the poor slaves. Many are exposed in the public markets like brute beasts, bought, sold, and sold again by vile dealers who carry their merchandise from one market to another. In these unhappy regions family life is nearly impossible, the master often finding it to his interest to sell father, mother, and children separately. Besides, the master marries his slaves as he chooses, separates them and re-marries them according to his fancy. It is impossible to form even a slight idea of the sufferings, the injustice, and the atrocities to which slavery gives rise, and of the abject state of physical and moral misery into which it has plunged and still keeps the unhappy peoples among whom it reigns."

---

### Slave Trading in Central Africa.

THE following account of slave trading in a remote part of the Central Soudan is taken from an address delivered by a French traveller and member of a recent Mission to Central Africa, organised by certain Chambers of Commerce

and capitalists in France, which has been published in the *Journal of the Paris Société de Géographie Commerciale*. The country of the Niam-Niams into which he penetrated borders on the region explored by Dr. Schweinfurth some thirty years ago, and described in his book *The Heart of Africa*; it lies to the south of Darfour and to the south-west of the Bahr-el-Ghazal. The country is naturally poor and its soil infertile, and it has become depopulated by the practice of Cannibalism, which is now no longer prevalent, by the Arab slave trade which still goes on, and other causes.

"The slave trade with the Arabs has had a most disastrous effect, from the point of view of the effective development of Central Africa. From the day when the caravans, sent by the Sultans of Wadai and Bornu and financed by the traders of Tripoli and Bengazi were able to penetrade into Dar Fertit, the country has been completely ruined.

"As a result of the events which brought about the evacuation of the Soudan by the Egyptians, a kind of rule resembling that of sultans has established itself in the neighbouring countries. The populations, too light and superficial to become converts to a religion so severe and strictly ruled as Mahommedanism, have at all times allowed themselves to be in subjection to chiefs who have, at any rate, kept up the customs if not the religion of the Arabs, such as Rafai, a former lieutenant of Zebehr and Semio, of royal Niam-Niam blood, but long settled in Darfour. From this has come the institution of harems, and from this also have sprung relations with the slave-traders, made much easier by the fact that the sultans had been formerly in contact with them through Zebehr or Suleiman Bey.

"As in the slave trading with the Arabs women are at a premium because they are easier to keep, the trade has always been chiefly directed to obtaining women, and the country has soon been stripped of them. Those who remained, whose number was not great, have become the property of the chiefs, so that the lower class can no longer marry, and, in consequence, the depopulation is still more increased by the diminution in births.

"The populations who form the category of domestic slaves are regularly marked out for raiding from the day when the trade spreads. When they seek to escape from the recruiting soldiers of the sultan they have no other resource than to fly to the bush. Villages disappear, cultivation is given up, misery and privations succeed in decimating races once strong and vigorous, now rickety and in a pitiable state of physical and moral decadence.

"During this time the sultans organize their army, clever enough as they are to range on their side the race who form the aristocracy of the country. Soon they are at the head of a respectable army, which has become strong thanks to the arms supplied by the slave traders, and their authority grows. Feeling themselves as strong as possible, having no longer to fear revolts and attacks, they shrink from no misdeeds, sell their subjects, women and children, not heeding the fact that their military array will soon serve only to guard a country depopulated, uncultivated and ruined.

"The chiefs set to work in their turn and on their own account. The traders emboldened by success, and anxious to extend their commerce, drive their furrow through the country . . . . It is then indispensable, if not to heal the disease, at least to weaken it as far as possible.

"Cannibalism will disappear of itself through contact with Europeans, but the slave

trade will be harder to combat, because the Sultans of Ubanghi are the appointed purveyors for the markets of Darfour and Tripoli, and because these slaves are also their chief source of income and their best asset."

It is to be regretted that the remedy proposed in this article for putting down the evils of the slave trade is to substitute for it a system of forced labour, an expedient which has often been tried and found to be little better than the disease. The French are to "put themselves in the place of the Arabs," buy the slaves and set them free, planting them in villages under direct French authority; families are thus to be built up again, and a nucleus formed for the re-population of the country; shameless speculators are to be carefully kept out.

But this is not enough; the people are to be taught to understand "the joys of work," and shaken out of their hereditary habits of idleness by the determined imposition of the *corvée* and long terms of forced contract labour, the example of General Gallieni in Madagascar being recommended for imitation.

By these far from novel means it is suggested that France should make a sustained effort to deal with uncivilised peoples, and show how false is the old charge that the French cannot colonize.

---

### NEW MEMBER OF COMMITTEE.

MR. HERBERT W. W. WILBERFORCE has been elected a member of the Committee of the Anti-Slavery Society. Mr. Wilberforce is a great-grandson of William Wilberforce.

---

### Obituary.

REV. J. O. WHITEHOUSE.

THE REV. JOHN OWEN WHITEHOUSE, who died, on the 2nd of March, in his 86th year, had been a member of the Committee of the Anti-Slavery Society since 1870, having joined it within a few months of the late Mr. Arthur Albright, who died last year, but he had not been able to attend its meetings for many years past.

Mr. Whitehouse did valuable missionary and educational work in India in connection with the London Missionary Society half a century ago, and he has ever since been closely associated with that Society as a member of the Board of Directors, and has at different times taken a very important part in its administration.

Mr. J. G. Alexander who is now the senior member of the Committee of the Anti-Slavery Society to which he was elected in 1876, writes concerning Mr. Whitehouse's connection with the Society as follows:—

"When I joined the Committee, he was a regular attendant, and although we had no permanent chairman, he was regularly voted into the chair. He devoted much time and thought to its work, and it was with great regret that we lost his services when a change in his relations with the London Missionary Society prevented his attending the sittings. Since then, now I suppose nearly twenty years ago, he has hardly ever been seen at the meetings."

A resolution of condolence with the relatives of the deceased gentleman was passed at the monthly meeting on March 29th, and the Hon. Secretary was asked to write and express the feeling of the Committee to Mr. Whitehouse's family.